Reviewer's report

Title: Primary care physician supply and other key determinants of health care utilisation: The case of Switzerland

Version: 2 Date: 8 November 2007

Reviewer: Freedom Nkhululeko N Gumedze

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Page 8: Data Analysis section:
Paragraph 2; sentence 5: The authors report '...provided the best fit between observed and expected data". What does this mean? How was the fit assessed? Major Compulsory Revisions
Paragraph 3: The authors state the final model without indicating what factors were treated as fixed and what factors were treated as random?
In the reported final model and in the modelling throughout the paper what is the response variable?

Page 9: Paragraph 1: The authors report that they used Proc Mixed procedure in SAS to fit their model(s). It is incorrect to used Proc Mixed for frequency/count data. I consider this to a fundamental flaw in their modelling. Could the authors justify their use of Proc Mixed, i.e. analyzing the data as normally distributed.

- Minor Essential Revisions
Table 5: give standard errors for reported estimates.

- Discretionary Revisions
None

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests